

NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY

By ALICE C. BEWER

Graduate of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia; Missionary Nurse,
American Hospital, Aintab, Turkey, Asia

For the first time in the history of missions of Turkey, possibly of the whole world, medical men and women engaged in missionary work came together to discuss the problems they were facing. The first conference of the "Medical Missionary Association of Turkey" was held at Aintab, Turkey in Asia, July 12-19, 1908.

The different members of the conference arrived on Saturday, several having made a journey on horseback lasting more than ten days. There were representatives from Erzroum, Harpoot, Diabekir, Sivas, Cesarea, Marash, Aintab, Aleppo, Beirût, Tiberias, and Deir Atiye near Damascus. From the missions not represented personally, came greetings and reports; among these were Van, Marsovan, Mardin, Urfa, Adana, and Constantinople. Everybody who came seemed to be filled with a desire to get the things most worth while out of this gathering for themselves personally, as well as for raising the standard of their profession.

The sessions of the conference were most helpful and a true source of inspiration, not only professionally but spiritually.

On Sunday evening the conference was opened with a praise service, and morning and afternoon sessions throughout the week were preceded by a short devotional service, led by the different members of the conference.

Monday, after organization, was devoted to hearing the reports from the different mission stations.

Tuesday was surgical day and after several operations at the Hospital, papers on surgical subjects were read and discussed.

Dr. Dodd, of Cesarea, gave a most interesting account of his visit to the Mayo Brothers, at Rochester, Minnesota, while in America last year.

Dr. Ward, who opens a new work in Diabekir this year, presented a paper on the "Etiology of Appendicitis." Dr. Torrance of Tiberias



WOMAN'S WARD.

U of M



TWO ARMENIAN MEN AND FOUR TURKISH WOMEN.

1900

read a paper on "Hernia" and Dr. Adams, of Beirût Syrian Protestant College, read a paper, prepared by Dr. Post of that institution, on the H. M. C. anæsthetic.

Wednesday was given up largely to association business, and on Thursday, after several operations, a medical clinic was conducted in the out-patient department of Aintab Hospital.

Friday was "Missionary Day" and the whole day was given up to considering the evangelistic side in connection with the medical work. Reports of the different ways and means of bringing men and women to Christ, were given by all the missions and stations represented and led to a most helpful interchange of ideas.

On Saturday, Dr. Hamilton, of Aintab, presented a paper on "Eclampsia" and Dr. Adams one on "Gleanings From One Thousand Skin Cases." There was also a paper on "X-ray" by Mr. St. John of Beirût and Dr. Shepard's, Aintab, "Lessons from Failures" were most helpful.

The closing session was a communion service on Sunday morning and a number of the doctors spoke at meetings of Christian Endeavorers and at the regular church and also the hospital services.

The social side of the gathering was not neglected and there were moonlight rides for those who enjoyed horseback riding, tennis and chess tournaments, a musicale and a picnic, all of which were entered into very heartily and were consequently successful.

The nurses present at the conference were voted in as full members with a right to vote.

Miss North, of Cesarea, gave a report of splendid work done with and for the nurses in their hospital. A movement was also set on foot to start an "Association of Trained Nurses" to be affiliated with the "Medical Missionary Association of Turkey" and open to all hospital trained nurses, holding diplomas or certificates (the latter is in deference to the European nurses, who do not get diplomas), engaged in missionary work. The aim of this proposed association is to work for the establishment of training schools, and for uniform standards in these schools, as well as mutual helpfulness, friendship and fellowship. One hospital in the interior reports a school in working order and another is doing fine work at Beirût.

We look forward to much help from the association, when once established, to work unitedly in winning a place for the nursing profession in this country where it has taken our predecessors and fellow workers years of toil and patience to bring it from absolute disfavor to the place it now occupies.

The accompanying pictures of Aintab Hospital will show how some of the people look for whom we work.

ITEMS

FROM a report by Dr. Peill, of T'sang-chow, in the *China Medical Missionary Journal*:

"Gradually the conviction comes home to one that 'medical missionary' and 'medical man' are far from synonymous terms. In some real sense every man one meets is a 'patient.' Each one of the uncounted thousands with whom one is brought into some sort of contact during the year is better, or worse, for the glimpse so gained of a professed representative of the Master. And to each of those burdened, sin-stricken hearts there ought to have come some haunting, sweet suggestion of the presence of that Master Himself to set him athirst for more. That word 'missionary' implies all this, and our 'patients,' reckoned thus, are beyond the utmost reach of mere statistics.

"At times the wards were very full, far more so than we had contemplated when the buildings were erected. One day I had the occupants of the wards all counted and found that there were 103 in quarters provided for 50! Of these, seventy-five were actual in-patients, almost all operation cases, and the rest were their so-called 'nurses.'"



THE call for public health is not merely a call for individual welfare; it is also one of the primal social duties. Next after himself, man owes it to his neighbor to be well, and to avoid disease in order that he may impose no burden upon that neighbor. A normal community can only be made up of normal members, and we are only just beginning adequately to recognize that the tuberculous person or the typhoid patient is a menace to public health. The Germans have given us that excellent phrase *Bacillenträger*; and this, for one disease, we have recently translated as typhoid-carriers. It would be well if we went further, and instead of speaking, as we usually do, merely of "consumptives," if we referred sometimes to these as tuberculosis-carriers. If we could go further yet and refer to syphilis-carriers and other sex-disease carriers, we should do useful service by educating the public to one of the gravest social aspects of public health reform.—WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK, in *Yale Medical Journal*.



AIN'TAB CLINIC. 1. A KOORD WITH ARAB HEAD-DRESS. 2. AND 3. A KOORDISH SHEPHERD AND WIFE IN THEIR OWN PROPER COSTUME.

U of M



RICH AND POOR, ALL ARMENIAN. THE TWO IN THE BACKGROUND ARE HOSPITAL HELPERS. AINTAB COSTUMES.

Mr. H. U.